

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Delete Paragraph [0021] in its entirety and insert the following therefor:

--The air shaft 27 in FIG. 2 is divided into a first air shaft 45 and a second air shaft 47. In the first air shaft 45, in addition to the convection gas stream I, an exhaust gas stream A is conveyed to the two rows of slits 17, 19 so that a comparatively hot convection air stream is present in the first air shaft 45. The second air shaft 47 is separated from the first air shaft 45 by means of an air deflector 49 and is located behind the gas burner 35. In the second air shaft 47 the temperature of the convection air stream I is far lower than in the first air shaft 45. The convection air stream I flowing in the second air shaft 47 is therefore used for cooling the control elements 21 as shown in the figure. Both the first air shaft 45 and the second air shaft 47 are in fluid-dynamic communication with the two rows of slits 17, 19. --